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SACSA

JOHN WATKINS

Within recent months increased emphasis has been placed on the war against the Viet Cong infrastructure. The briefing this morning will discuss some new developments in this war.

The Viet Cong Infrastructure is the political and administrative organization through which the Viet Cong seek to control the South Vietnamese people. It embodies the People's Revolutionary Party Control Structure, including COSVN, and the National Liberation Front. Both of these organizations extend down from national to hamlet level. Control is actually accomplished through committees established at each level. This slide shows the organization of a typical village committee.

SLIDE 1 ON

S. Stanton
Current MACV estimates place the strength of the infrastructure at 40,000. However, these figures do not include personnel at the hamlet level. Consequently it is estimated that the total strength is at least double MACV's figure.

The problem is first to identify the members of the infrastructure (PLIF 1) and then to eliminate them (PLIF 2).

PAUSE

SLIDE 1 OFF

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The problem is first to identify the members of the infrastructure (Slide 2) and then to eliminate them (Slide 3).

PAUSE

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Intelligence
Actions against infrastructure personnel are traditionally a police matter. Vietnamese National Police at all levels have been gathering information on the infrastructure for years. In addition the Central Intelligence Agency has been gathering this information on the infrastructure for years. There is also the Special Forces. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President's Intelligence Board, and the Defense Intelligence Agency. As a result of the various efforts of these fields over the years, a considerable amount of intelligence concerning the infrastructure is available to the United States.

However, much of it is buried in files, and little effort has been directed toward properly exploiting this information.

5. Planning
In order to coordinate and give new impetus to US and GVN operations directed toward elimination of the infrastructure, MACV Directive 351-41 was published on 9 July. This directive established a joint civil/military management structure entitled Intelligence Coordination and Exploitation for attack on VC Infrastructure, short title ICEX.

SLIDE 2 ON

5. Planning
ICEX establishes at all levels, from Saigon to district, an agency specifically charged with coordinating, recommending and supervising activities related to the identification and destruction of the infrastructure. Initial emphasis is on the US side of the effort, with the hope that it will stimulate a similar Vietnamese effort.

(UNCOVER FLIP 1)

At the Saigon level, an ICEX Committee has been established under the chairmanship of Mr. Komer, with membership including the Special Assistant to the Ambassador, the MACV J-2 and J-3, and the Chief of the RD Cadre Division of COMUSMACV. This committee will be supported by a small staff of approximately 20 personnel.

(UNCOVER FLIP 2)

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At the Corps or Field Force level, the Corps Senior Advisor will designate the CIA Regional Officer in Charge (ROIC) as his principle staff officer for ICEX matters. The ROIC will chair a committee which will include the Corps G-2, the G-3 Advisor, the G-3 Advisor, and the heads of any other VC elements which are principally concerned with the infrastructure. The work of this committee will be supervised by the Corps Senior Advisor's Deputy for COMUSMACV.

(UNCOVER FLIP 3)

In each province, the Province Senior Advisor will be provided a Province ICEX Advisor by CIA or Central Registry Detachment. He will act as the principle staff officer to the Province Senior Advisor for ICEX matters. At this level no ICEX committee is established. However, the ICEX Advisor will concentrate on stimulating the functioning of the Vietnamese Province Intelligence Coordinating Committee to focus its activities on the infrastructure.

(UNCOVER FLIP 4)

In selected Districts, a District Operations Intelligence Coordinating Center will be established. This is a combined US/GVN agency which will permit rapid evaluation and dissemination of infrastructure intelligence and quick reaction to eliminate the local infrastructure. A prototype of this organization has been functioning in Dien Ban District of Quang Nam Province with some notable successes. The lessons learned here will be adapted to the local situation when other DOICC's are established.

Many of the agencies which provide information on the infrastructure report to the Province Headquarters. These include the Province Reconnaissance Unit, the Province Interrogation Center, and the Static Census Grievance Teams. Consequently the Province currently has the best intelligence on the infrastructure. However, its ability to react to this intelligence is not as complete or rapid as desired. The

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(SLIDE 2 OFF)

Although the ICEX organization itself is new, the increased emphasis placed on the war against the infrastructure within recent months has already begun to pay some dividends.

Currently 9,000 VC personalities have been identified, and 21,000 additional names are being inserted in the base data. Recently the ROIC in Sa Dec Province reported that he had almost completely identified the infrastructure in his province. Also, between January and May of this year, 160 VC cadre were captured within the city of Saigon. As the ICEN organization develops, it should be possible to take an ever increasing "rifle shot" approach rather than a shotgun approach to the job of eliminating the important political leaders and activists in the VC infrastructure.

Gentlemen, this completes my briefing for this morning. Are there any questions?

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John HCS

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